

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 VIENTI 00151 271027Z

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 AID-05 IO-13 EB-08 COME-00
TRSE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01
/094 W

-----271437Z 064818 /47

R 270945Z JAN 77

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7613

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMCONSUL UDORN

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENTIANE 0151

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ETRN ECON EFIN EAIR PINS PGOV PORG

SUBJECT: LPDR TOURISM

1. LPDR EFFORTS TO EARN FOREIGN EXCHANGE FROM TOURISM HAVE BEEN STUNTED BY INTER-MINISTERIAL RIVALRY, ACCORDING TO AN AMCIT WHO WORKS FOR A TRAVEL AGENCY IN VIENTIANE. SOURCE SAID THE LAO CIVIL AVIATION DEPARTMENT AND THE DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM HAVE BEEN LOCKED IN A STRUGGLE TO CONTROL THE POTENTIALLY LUCRATIVE TOURIST INDUSTRY IN ORDER TO OBTAIN REVENUE FOR THEIR DEPARTMENTS, SINCE THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT CONTRIBUTES VERY LITTLE TO PAY THE OPERATIONAL EXPENSES OF ITS INDIVIDUAL DEPARTMENTS.

2. SOURCE TOLD EMBOFF JANUARY 25 THAT THE DIRECTOR OF TOURISM, SITTHANA BANSUK, FLED TO THAILAND JANUARY 17, REPORTEDLY BECAUSE OF THREATS MADE ON HIS LIFE BY SOME CHINESE RESTAURANT OWNERS BECAUSE SITTHANA HAD NOT

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 VIENTI 00151 271027Z

CHOSEN THEIR RESTAURANTS TO SERVE THE TOURIST TRADE.

3. A LOCAL MERCHANT SEPARATELY TOLD EMBOFF JANUARY 24 THAT VIENTIANE MUNICIPAL AUTHORITIES HAD SELECTED THREE RESTAURANTS TO CATER TO THE FUTURE TOURIST TRADE. MOST RESTAURANTS IN VIENTIANE HAVE BEEN TAKEN OVER BY THE GOVERNMENT, BUT THESE THREE ESTABLISHMENTS CONTINUE

TO BE PRIVATELY OWNED AND OPERATED.

4. A UNDP OFFICIAL TOLD EMBOFF LAST NOVEMBER THAT THE LPDR HAD APPROACHED THE UNDP TO PROVIDE AID AND EXPERTISE FOR THE TOURIST HOTEL NOW BEING CONSTRUCTED ON AN ISLAND IN THE NAM NGUM RESERVOIR. THE UNDP HAS NOT YET RESPONDED, BUT THE HOTEL IS STILL SHCHEDULED TO BE COMPLETED THIS YEAR.

5. AT THE PRESENT TIME THERE IS ALMOST NO TOURIST TRADE IN LAOS. SOME TRAVELERS TOUR VIENTIANE WHILE TRANSITING TO VIETNAM, AND VISITING DELEGATIONS FROM COMMUNIST COUNTRIES ALSO VISIT OTHER AREAS OF THE LPDR, INCLUDING SUCH TOWNS AS LUANG PRABANG, XIENG KHOUANG, VIENGSAI, AND PAKSE. WHEN BRITISH AMBASSADOR REQUESTED PERMISSION TO TRAVEL AS TOURIST TO LUANG PRABANG OVER THE CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY, HOWEVER, HE WAS DENIED PERMISSION ON THE GROUNDS THAT TRAVEL WAS TOO INSECURE.

6. COMMENT: WITH THE PRESENT LPDR INABILITY TO PROTECT TOURISTS AND RELUCTANCE TO ALLOW "FOREIGN SPIES" TO TRAVEL WITHIN LAOS, THE OPENING OF TOURISM BEYOND THE VIENTIANE PLAIN IS DOUBTFUL FOR THE NEAR FUTURE.
CORCORAN

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TOURISM, FOREIGN EXCHANGE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 27-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977VIENTI00151
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770029-1017
Format: TEL
From: VIENTIANE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770110/aaaaajam.tel
Line Count: 87
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: aaa9b5cf-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 07-Jan-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3478667
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: LPDR TOURISM
TAGS: ETRN, ECON, EFIN, EAIR, PINS, PGOV, PORG, LPDR
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/aaa9b5cf-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009